THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (b): No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) For the 5 medium-sized and 13 small-sized fields, for which the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) have been signed, the cess and royalty payable as per the PSCs for crude is Rs. 900/ tonne and Rs. 481/tonne respectively. For Natural Gas, royalty is payable at an *ad valorem* rate of 10% and no cess is payble.

Profit Made by ONGC

1967. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit made by ONGC in 1996-97;

(b) the percentage rise in the profit in comparision to expectation; and

(c) the steps proposed to boost LPG production to meet the shortages all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The net profit made by ONGC in 1996-97 was Rs. 2033.65 crores.

(b) The increase in actual net profit for the year 1996-97 is 11.47% as compared to the expected profit as per the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the ONGC and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for 1996-97.

(c) The following steps are being taken by ONGC to increase the LPG Production from their existing production facilities located at Uran in Maharashtra and Hazira, Ankleshwar and Gandhar in Gujarat.

1. Upgradation of gas processing facilities in Uran terminal, which is expected to increase the LPG production by about 50,000 tonnes per annum.

2. Upgradation of gas handling and sweetening facilities in Hazira terminal which is expected to increase LPG production by about 30,000 tonnes per annum.

3. After commissioning of Off-gas Compressors under Gandhar Phase II Development, the LPG production has increased by about 35,000 tonnes per annum.

Deep Sea Exploration Programme

1968. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to set up a subsidiary company for deep sea exploration and another for taking up drilling services both within the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations identified under the deep sea exploration programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) ONGC has prioritised three deep water locations for drilling, one in the Kerala-Konkan basins in the Western offshore and one each in the Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins in the Eastern deep offshore.

Strike by Petrol Pump Dealers

1969. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strike of Petrol Pump dealers on 4th August, 1997 regarding the demand of

the increased commission due to price hike and increased expenses;

(b) whether Government have assured the dealers to increase the commission on each price hike; and

(c) what steps have been taken to avoid the unnecessary harassment and by what time the report of the High Level Committee set up for the prupose is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Dealers commission is revised based on a formula whenever there is a revision in the administered price of MS & HSD. A Committee constituted is examining the demands raised by the Dealers for revision in the commission.

Non Payment of Dues to ONGC

1970. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the press news-item captioned, "Non payment of dues by OCC, IOC to hit ONGC" as reported in the Statesman dated 4.7.97;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC is in the grip of liquidity crunch due to non payment of dues to them by the oil companies;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to direct oil companies to make payment to ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The overdue portion of the outstanding of ONGC from oil companies/OCC was around Rs. 2654 crores as on 31.3.97. This has resulted in liquidity crunch for ONGC necessitating it to resort to short term borrowings from the domestic market. The Government has been exploring various options to contain the deficit in the pool account to provide relief to the oil companies.

ADB projects in Gujarat

1971. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has earmarked 820 million dollars for projects in Gujarat during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be taken up under the ADB programme in Gujarat;

(c) whether it is a fact that ADB has inter-alia included the laying of 1000 kms. LPG transmission pipeline from North-West Gujarat to Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) For the State of Gujarat, the ADB has proposed the following projects from public sector windows over the medium term:

(1) Gujarat Power Sector Development Programme US $ 300 million

(2) Gujarat Infrastructure facility US $ 150 million ADB has also approved a loan of US $ 250 million for the Gujarat public Sector Resource Management Programme.

(c) and (d) The ADB has included LPG transmission pipeline project for possible assistance, the details of which have not been finalised.